

Counterpoise

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

April 2007

Number 4



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

April 12, 2007 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net



April's Meeting
SD County Emergency System

2007 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

2007 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

2007 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Health & Welfare	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	WA6PPG	Carl Ferree	328-2694
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	W6CCM	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445

Staff and Writers:

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6CCM	Erich	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
KK6MS	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



My hat is off to Ken WA6OSB. What a great display on 900 MHz. If you would like to do a presentation for the club, please contact Ed AI6O. Field Day is coming up and it's going to be one for the best, PSK, Voice, and yes even Code. Code may not be a requirement for the licensees, but it's not dead. I believe we had seven stations last year, and this year we are going to have more. Take two meters for instance, we will be running PSK, FM, SSB and CW if need be. I know for sure we will have PSK and SSB going at the same time. I was talking with Ed AI6O, Field Day Chair, and we are going to have the "Duel of the TS-2000's" at the 50 MHz and above station. This should be fun. At the 50 MHz and above station we will have 6m, 2m, 2m APRS, 440 MHz, 900 MHz, and 1.2 Gig. We will even try to work some moon bounce and Satellite if we get the time.

So I hope to see you up there working a station, cooking, putting up the towers or just talking to other members, but most of all having fun.

73,
Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President

General Class License Theory Course

Instructor: Gordon AE6QW

Location: 222 W. Madison Avenue, El Cajon
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Text: ARRL's

Sessions:

1 – 6 on Tuesday:

To enroll Contact: Mike Maston, N6OPH
Education Chairman
(619) 296-9067

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
8 March 2007



The general membership of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by club president Paul, KC6QLS at 1900hrs. Paul announced a five-minute rule on all speakers except for our featured speaker for this evening's program. There were no objections.

SECRETARY'S report was approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.

EDUCATION chairman Mike, N6OPH stated that the general theory class will begin next Tuesday at 222 West Madison Avenue, El Cajon starting at 1900hrs. Gordon, AE6QW is the instructor.

TREASURER "Stogie" KG6JCW was unable to offer his report. It was read by Mike, N6OPH and approved as corrected and filed for audit. He mischaracterized the entry regarding Bill Callier Enterprises.

This evening's speaker, Ken, WA6OSB was introduced. His program was 900mhz communications.

PRESIDENT'S report was given by Paul, KC6QLS. The silent auction winner is KG6YRF. The auctioned item was dinner for two at Estrellas. Volunteer sign up sheets were located in the rear of the meeting hall for various El Cajon and other events.

VICE-PRESIDENT Ed, AI6O reported on the planning for the upcoming field day events. Of course volunteers are need for this event. Set up will begin on 22 June and run through 24 June. There should be at least ten rigs available for our field day. It will be held at the Al Bahr Shrine on mount Laguna. The T-shirt contest for the field day t-shirt will end on the May's meeting. The winner will receive a free t-shirt. Check with Ann for reservations, rooms and RV pads. Activity has slowed on the digital net.

SANDARC held their meeting on 22 February. A nominations committee was selected for the nominations and election of SANDARC officers. The officers serve a two year term. This committee will present a slate of officers during the March meeting. The San Diego County Fair will begin on 11 June and run through the month of June. The fair will not operate on Mondays.

The NCVEC conference is scheduled for 27 July 2007 in Gettysburg, PA. One of the topics of discussion would be a possible Spanish Language Question pool, which is being requested by a Puerto Rico group, headed by the ARRL Puerto Rico section manager.

PUBLIC SERVICE chairman Rich, N6NKJ reported on the just completed drill held by ARES. Also he announced the establishment of the East County Amateur Radio Response Team, which is a service of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Rich is also seeking information regarding classes, events or any amateur radio activities for his column. The general theory course will be starting on Tuesday 13 March at 222 West Madison Avenue in El Cajon. The class runs for two hours and starts at 1900hrs.

Paul, KC6QLS announced that the club will buy a three element beam antenna for use during field day and other activities.

John Graff, WA6L outlined his online course on contesting and other ideas for mentoring and continuing Elmer programs via the internet.

MEMBERSHIP of the club stands at 243 paid members. There were 50 in attendance at this evening's meeting. Also, several new members signed up this evening.

There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2044hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

AI6O	FELTER FINANCIAL GROUP, INC Financial and Estate Planning Ed Felter, President 8080 La Mesa Blvd Suite #113 La Mesa CA 91941 Phone: (619) 668-0929 Fax: (619) 668-5666 E-mail: edfelter@pacbell.net
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From The Vice President AI6O ED



"Having failed to convince the FCC to allow ARRL/Winlink email robots to operate anywhere in the phone bands, the ARRL is trying again, through a special meeting with the FCC, to modify Part 97.221 to allow them to cover the RTTY/Data/CW bands anywhere at will, which will cause serious harm to RTTY and CW contesting, DXing, and ragchewing." (QRZ.COM)

Please check out what the ARRL is doing and voice your opinion. As a PSK operator on HF, there are so many times when these robots will come on and tear a QSO to shreds using automatic Pactor. Please notice the proposed rule change of Part 97.221 (b) (2). I would encourage you to check this out thoroughly at ARRL and on QRZ.COM.

Be sure to be present for the April meeting regarding the SD County Emergency System. Don't forget to sign up for Field Day—bigger and better this year! Get you T-shirt design in and win one free! 73

Straight Ahead!

Ed Felter, AI6O

CERT Academe
May 12 & Sept. 8
To register, please call (619) 441-1645

Field Day Cabins & Dorms
For information please call
Ann KC6TBG at: (619) 593-9445

Have some event to list?

Email WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Calendar of Events April 2007

April 3:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
April 5:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
April 7:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
April 7:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
April 12:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
April 17:	Counterpoise Dead Line
April 19:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
April 21:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
April 21:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
April 26:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz

Upcoming Event Dates

May. 10:	T-Shirt contest ENDS
June. 23:	Field Day 2007
July. 21:	ARCEC Annual Picnic
Oct. ??:	Fire Station Open House
Nov. 18:	Mother Goose Parade

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GARY YATES
OWNER

(619) 561-3202

12461 WOODSIDE AVE.
LAKESIDE, CA 92040



Tom Mc Duffie KM6K, Manager
5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterposie. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:

A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to

Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C., P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash () Check ()	Check No. Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays April

April 1	KD6QB	Bill	Callier
April 2	KE6PMS	Louis	Dunn
April 3	KF6QXO	Irene	Lewis Haag
April 5	KF6FBL	Carol	Hart
April 10	NY6J	Bob	Helt
April 15	N6YBK	Galen	Kelm
April 16	KG6YKJ	Thomas	Christian
April 20	WA6VEY	Bob	Dalzell
April 21	KI6DJQ	Will	Tisch
April 23	WA6BJM	Fred	Moffett
April 24	KG6ZJF	George	Snell
April 26		Beth	Lang
April 29	WB6TPJ	Joe	Yelkin

Did I miss your Birthday or is yours next month?
Your Birthday may not be on the Roster.

E-mail me: WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Brain Thinkers

March 2007

1= K. K. on the E. S. B.

1= King Kong on the Empire State Building

2= H. in a W.

2= Halves in a Whole

3= B. in the H. E

3= Bones in the Human Ear

206= B. in the H. B

206= Bones in the Human Body

----- This Months -----

1= S. C. in D. P.

3= L. P.

4= S. in a Y.

Word Search " RESPECTABLE "

E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	W	R	H	F
V	W	R	W	Y	G	N	I	T	P	E	C	C	A	E	E	A
I	C	G	C	B	M	W	C	E	R	E	C	N	I	S	O	I
T	P	N	T	P	H	O	N	T	S	T	Y	W	E	S	O	R
A	L	I	N	M	W	R	T	Q	W	J	W	E	N	C	P	R
R	B	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	E	B	E	P	C	L	S
E	E	N	M	W	O	J	C	W	R	I	Y	L	O	E	W	S
P	L	A	T	B	C	L	B	M	H	Q	Y	R	B	S	E	B
O	B	T	I	R	B	Y	E	T	J	C	Y	L	O	E	W	S
O	A	S	M	A	Q	M	R	R	L	T	X	M	T	F	U	R
C	N	R	M	V	L	O	Q	M	A	W	C	U	I	L	G	C
B	O	E	O	E	W	P	L	Y	B	N	X	H	V	W	M	
W	S	D	C	T	M	B	W	Y	R	P	C	J	E	Q	I	G
I	A	N	S	G	R	A	C	I	O	U	S	E	D	L	P	I
S	E	U	L	B	A	L	A	N	C	E	D	Q	L	S	E	N
E	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	L	E	T	Y	S	P	V
T	M	W	E	V	I	T	A	I	C	E	R	P	P	A	R	I
C	O	U	R	A	G	E	O	U	S	B	M	Y	S	T	U	G

- ACCEPTING
- APPRECIATIVE
- BRAVE
- BALANCED
- COMMITMENT
- COOPERATIVE
- COURAGEOUS
- DETERMINE
- ENCOURAGEMENT
- FAIRNESS
- GIVING
- GRACIOUS
- GUTSY

- HELPFUL
- HONESTY
- TRUSTWORTHINESS
- RESPONSIBLE
- HUMBLE
- REASONABLE
- RESOURCEFUL
- SERVICE
- SINCERE
- SUPPORTIVE
- TOLERANCE
- UNDERSTANDING
- WISE

Last Month's Word Search

C	O	N	V	F	R	T	A	C	C	M	S	N	F	W
D	N	F	W	-	K	E	W	I	G	W	J	E	H	T
B	X	J	H	-	L	I	A	X	F	G	O	W	K	X
W	N	O	E	M	F	W	G	A	R	T	C	E	P	S
G	O	S	F	E	J	N	H	A	R	D	L	I	N	F
I	H	W	L	H	G	L	K	O	W	R	W	H	J	N
D	K	M	O	T	R	O	L	A	-	F	D	I	T	
X	J	G	X	J	F	N	D	J	E	X	K	L	H	
O	E	P	E	A	T	E	R	I	H	K	N	E	W	U
E	W	D	Z	N	W	L	R	W	J	A	O	M	O	S
T	X	K	E	H	E	F	K	L	E	S	I	B	D	
O	G	N	I	J	V	O	X	W	I	P	G	E	X	A
T	W	O	E	S	J	F	E	A	Z	S	J	D	D	S
E	M	I	N	I	U	H	F	T	K	X	D	I	P	T
K	D	A	L	L	O	C	A	I	O	N	Q	L	S	M
T	J	K	N	L	A	I	G	R	E	M	M	O	C	A



HAM Spot Light

KI6EEK



This month the spotlight shines on Alyssa Rios, KI6EEK, WAMO#1681. Lisie, as she likes to be called, is the daughter of Ann and Paul Rios and sister to Tassy and Bridget Rios. Lisie is one of the younger members of the El Cajon Club at thirteen years old, but the fact that she is young is exactly what makes her stand out.

Lisie has already participated in two Field Days and worked at the ARRL South Western Division Convention this past September. She attends Club meetings regularly and enjoys the diversity of the speakers. She's even been known to check in a time or two onto Saturday WAMO net.

Outside of the radio world, Lisie excels in many aspects of life, especially in her weekly science club after school. She also is an active Girl Scout, who along with her sister Bridget, completed her Silver Award. She spends her free time reading and learning about horses and other animals as one day she hopes to become a veterinarian. Lisie recently competed in the Miss Teen El Cajon Pageant as well, and loves serving at community events.

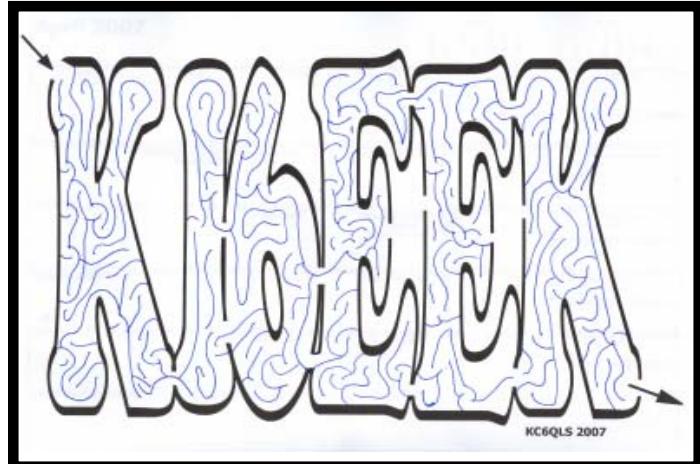
It's a great thing to see today's youth showing an interest in Amateur Radio as they are definitely the future for tomorrow's club, hobby and service. Lisie hopes to see more sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters even, joining the fun with the enthusiasm she has herself. What Amateur Radio becomes in the future depends on the youth today.

No longer just a voice on the radio, the spotlight shines on KI6EEK.

73!

KI6FIH Tassy

MAZE



Jokes "Two Muffins"

Two muffins are in the oven.
One says to the other "Gosh it's hot in here"
The other one replies "Oh no... It's a talking muffin"

Lisie KI6EEK



The MOC



One of the POD's

**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner

The other day while I was helping Harley's family going through the file cabinets, I found a folder labeled ARCEC. In the folder I found a copy of the Counterpoise dated August 1969. To the best of my memory this is the oldest Counterpoise I have seen. By the time you read this it should be scanned and uploaded to the web site. It was fun to see how the newsletter was done. All done on a typewriter, no computer! You had to count the lines and do the REAL "Cut and Paste". Looking back on it, a lot of time and work went into just putting the information into a format to make it look good.

Today we use a computer to "Cut and Paste", spell check, aid in layout and then send it out in data form. We have come a long way from the past. I'm thankful to be the Editor in the age of computers. I give all the past Editors a big pat on the back.

If I could ask a past Editor some questions, how long did it take from start to finish? How many drafts did they have to do before it was done? Do you like how the Counterpoise looks and reads today?

Lastly, if anyone has older copies of the Counterpoise, please send them to me, and I will return them to you. I would like to place them on the website for all to see. I have mostly the past three years.

Public Relations

I went to the Anthrax drill on March 8, 2007 as the ARRL PIO. I was impressed by how well the county works in a disaster mode. They handled each problem that came up like professionals. They spent millions on the communications and computers to talk to each other in a disaster. As Amateurs it seems we tend to spend as little as we can to do the same thing.

Continued page 13

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

**Del Mar Fair, Field Day, FS #6 Open house
Please Sign up at the next meeting**

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpose* Mail to:
WA6BGScounterpose@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. To Help, contact WA6PPG Carl Ferree at 328-2694 e-mail at cferree@IEEE.ORG

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"An argument needs no reason, nor a friendship."

- Lbycus Fragment 40



Plaza Las Palmas Center

**1255 Avocado Ave. Suite 103,
El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 440-4031**

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



Excitement and DANGER in Radio Repair!!

Normally you wouldn't compare restoring a radio to Rock Climbing, Sky Diving, River Rapids Kyaking, or James Bond type adventures, but there are times it can rival it! And yesterday was just such a day.

I received in a Heathkit SB-401 Transmitter from Ebay in thrashed and trashed condition. Once again, the seller had boxed it shabbily and the Mailman punted it to my door from the 50 yard line. The main dial, all the studs in the case and the outer cover were wasted, but with Insured postal items, you have to surrender the rig to make a claim, and I WANTED to keep this radio. So it was a challenge from the start. The main tuning dial had its hub broken loose from the plastic, which was shattered, so I used the trusty JB WELD epoxy to set it in place and that worked great! I highly recommend that stuff! Various other repairs were made, and it was just about time to give it the SMOKE TEST! Before doing so, I thought it would be good practice to spray all the Pots, Tube sockets and switches with Contact Cleaner called DE-OX-IT. Expensive stuff! \$14 a can at Frys. I found a similar product at the El Cajon parts store for \$7! So it was sprayed and sprayed and I plugged it in. As it powered up, I was delighted to see the tubes glow and the dial lights light. The seller had said it had no response to power, so he must have had a bad power cord. But suddenly the variable capacitor to the driver started to arc and spark. The Chassis ERUPTED IN FLAMES!!!! Yes, the Contact cleaner hadn't evaporated yet and it was highly flammable' ignited by the arcing!!!! With no fire extinguisher at hand, I did the next best thing. Pretend it was a big BIRTHDAY CAKE and start huffing and puffing to blow out the flames!! The fire was roaring away but my air burstsif ONL put it out, but not before singeing my hair and nearly setting off the fire sprinklers here at work! So there is a safety lesson. LET the contact cleaner dry before plugging a rig in! Whatever caused the arcing was burnt up in the fire, and after checking for damage I "FIRED" the radio up again. This time it worked! Took a little mousing around with the switches but now it works great! WOW, what an adventure!! This transmitter will mate up with the SB-301 receiver covered a couple months ago.

Also pictured this month are 2 salvaged 6 meter radios from Harley K6DS's estate. The worst case is the Icom 551, a very popular rig and most are still in use. This one, however, looks to have been retrieved from the bottom of a swamp, as it is rusted solid and everything is corroded beyond imagination. This did light

up, but, as expected, will take a lot of work before it plays. It is put on the "I'll get around to again someday" pile. The other is a nice little Yaesu FT-680R mobile radio for 6. All mode, it is a beauty, or would be if it was all there. It is missing the top cover, but after extensive troubleshooting, receives and transmits just fine. The Power Out is only 350mW and it should be 10W, so the final is probably blown, but this would be ideal for a transverter or driving a linear amp. Do need to find a top cover for it or repackage it into another chassis. Often, the main stumbling block to radio repair is getting parts. Most of the old rigs no longer have parts made for them, and you have to cannibalize other junked rigs to combine them to make one good one. That's how I built the SB-301s. A few months back, at the TRW swapmeet, I saw another Yaesu like this in parts, but decided it was too hopeless of a project to tackle and walked away from it. STUPID ME!!! If I had only bought it, there would have been the parts I needed to make this one fly! The message here is NEVER turn down an opportunity to get a junk radio. You may not need it today, but you will tomorrow! Now, if ONLY someone could convince my WIFE of that!!!

—
Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
San Diego Section Manager
Curator, Crest Radio Museum



Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

"FCC to Drop Ohm's Law from Amateur Testing"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 23 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

A surprising development at the FCC has members of the US Ham Radio community believing that additional changes are ahead for US Amateur Radio testing. Following in the footsteps of the recent FCC decision to drop International Morse Code requirement from Amateur Radio examinations, The Federal Communications Commission has announced plans to eliminate all references to Ohm's Law, a fundamental electronic theory, from future U.S. Amateur Radio testing. The announcement has taken the Ham community by surprise, following the Commission's decision to eliminate the International Morse Code from future licensing examinations.

In a hastily arranged news conference, FCC Enforcement Director Rollie Hollingsworth K4XYZ addressed assembled members of the media to provide details on the latest FCC decision. Members of the Ham media agreed later that Hollingsworth was uncharacteristically candid in his comments, possibly a result of the muted reaction from the Ham community to the commission's ruling on the code. "Opportunities are few and far between for Commission staff to get together informally to discuss issues of concern to the US Amateur Service. Following the Morse Code decision, we were reviewing the decision making process in a Gettysburg meeting, and one of our staff members started to recount a conversation with an Amateur license applicant at a VE testing session. The applicant complained that he had trouble with the '*V-I-R thing*', and the discussion started from there."

As all Hams who have taken the Amateur Radio examination know, the Ohm's law formula is based on algebraic formula $I = V / R$, as determined in 1828 by the experiments of German physicist George Simon Ohm. If any two of the factors are known R , I and V , the third can be calculated. V represents *voltage* in volts, I represents *current* in amperes, and R represents *resistance* in ohms. The

relationship of voltage to current and resistance is expressed as "voltage is equal to current multiplied by resistance". The relationship of current to voltage and resistance is expressed as "current is equal to voltage divided by resistance", and finally the relationship of resistance to voltage and current is expressed as "resistance is equal to voltage divided by current". What the FCC did not realize was how challenging the formula and the interrelationship of voltage, current, and resistance were to potential licensees without an exposure to basic algebra. Adding a further complication was the fact that elements of the formula are frequently depicted in Amateur Radio study materials as being arranged within a circle, pictorially illustrating the relationship between each element of the formula.

Hollingsworth explains "That whole 'circle thing' just throws many Amateur applicants for a loop, and that is a perilous situation. Add to this the fear of rejection and potential for damage to the self esteem of applicants and one can see how high the stakes are for an aspiring Ham. This potential for damage to the self esteem of an applicant could expose the FCC to legal action". Hollingsworth adds that the situation is complicated if an applicant has a condition known as dyslexia, a medically recognized form of learning disability. "For individuals affected by dyslexia, a sensory deficiency, elements of written information, including mathematical formulas, are transposed. Dyslexia could lead an applicant to confuse the Ohms law formula, without prompt mathematical intervention". Hollingsworth concludes that the stakes were "just too high" to allow Ohms Law to continue to appear in U.S. Amateur licensing exams.

Further explaining the FCC's reasoning on the Ohm's Law proposal, Hollingsworth adds "You don't have to be a German physicist to realize that most circuit boards today are solid state, and frequently consist of surface-mounted components, which are difficult to individually troubleshoot. We thought it would just be easier to just toss out this whole calculation thing with voltage, current and resistance – the whole '*Ohm's Law thing*'. That way, Hams will have much more time for on-air operation."

The response from the Association for Amateur Radio, the ARRL, a national Amateur Radio organization was supportive of the Commission's decision. ARRL President Dr. J. Hammond Swiss W3HOS comments "In its ruling on the Morse Code, the FCC saw that the Ham Radio community was equally divided on the role of the code in US Amateur testing. In the wake of the code decision, apparently, the FCC sensed an opportunity to

Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

move on an issue long considered troublesome to a small but vocal segment of the Ham community – the mathematically challenged". Dr. Swiss adds a potential upside to elimination of the Ohm's Law formula. "According to League estimates, we anticipate the elimination of Ohm's Law will increase the ranks of the Amateur Service by at least an additional 23% by the first quarter of 2008. And, we expect that many of these new licensees will get on HF, potentially boosting sales of high-frequency Amateur transceivers".

The Commission's plan to drop Ohm's Law is not without critics. The most vocal criticism to date has been expressed by "RadioWorld Magazine" publisher and baking soda tycoon Armond Hammer AZ6RW. At the FCC news conference, the Rancho Cucamonga, California based publisher was overhead commenting to an aide "...another half-baked scheme from the people who dropped the Morse Code. They're dumbing down the requirements to get a Ham license. Next, they'll issue Ham licenses to dogs and cats."

Reporters at the news conference were further surprised when Hollingsworth hinted about future actions the FCC may be considering, beyond the Ohm's Law proposal. "As a matter of fact, there are quite a few things we've been thinking about. The Commission establishes frequencies for Amateur use, directs Hams to operate in the public interest, directs efforts to establish a structure for applicant testing, and issues regulations for on-air behavior. Yet, when Commission members tune in on U.S. Amateur Public Service net frequencies, after all this effort, all we hear on net frequencies is '*I'm QRU – no traffic for the net.*' The Commission is considering making it a violation of Federal law for U.S. Amateurs to check into a Public Service net without message traffic for the net".

Reaction among representatives of the media present at the news conference to the FCC's proposed action on net activity was stunned silence. But before members of the media could respond with questions, Hollingsworth revealed another issue under consideration by the Commission. "Another thing bothering us is the on-air use of the term 'Old Man'. The AARP has *really* got a problem with *that* one. It's what we at the Commission refer to as 'The Geezer Factor', the aging demographics of the hobby and the growing sensitivity to on-air mention of age-related issues. Hams can look forward to further rulings by the Commission on this and other topics in the near term".

Testing and Club Attire

Editor's Note – Licensed Amateurs and potential Hams alike are reminded that a Ham license is a 'ticket' to lifelong learning. Hams should remember just because a subject – Ohm's Law or the International Morse Code, doesn't appear on an Amateur Radio exam, it's still worthwhile to explore these and other topics and modes. With the right outlook, Ham Radio is a great place to learn, whether you're a youngster or an "Old Man".

73

Morris Code
K7CW

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

Club Attire

***** Shirts on hand. Call for Sizes *****
Get your jackets, hats and t-shirts.
Show off your club colors and let all know
that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is
strong and growing.
Contact: K6PKS Paul Schmidt (619) 733-2284

Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello all,

This will be a very short article this month. It is with deep sadness that I write to tell you of the passing of a long time member of our club; Mirim DeMers, WB6EWT, is now a silent key. Her late husband, Ed DeMers was for many, many years our WAMO chairman, and with Mirim at his side, they were a big part of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Ed proceeded her in death.

Just a few things coming up; June 2 - 3, the Palomar Radio club is planning a Special Event Station for the Palomar Observatory; for more information, go to their web page.

Gordon Shackelford will once again teach the Extra Class upgrade class in September. So all of you who want to become the "first on your block" to get your extra class ticket mark this on your calendar. If you know someone who would like to upgrade, tell them about the class.

At the ARCEC Board of Directors meeting on 3 April, 2007, we voted to sign an agreement with the Padre Water District to provide their communication needs during drills or in a disaster. Right now, there are just two people who are signed up as operators for this task; John Cordle, KF6XY, and me Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ. We are going to need more people to join our *East County Amateur Radio Response Team* to help out with Padre Water District and any other events that may come our way. Please sign up at the next meeting or contact me or John KF6XY. Just a reminder, the water district lets us keep our club repeater.

The San Diego County Fair, (Ok, ok, I too still call it the Del Mar Fair) will take place in June, and our club always has the first week of the fair. We work two shifts each day: 10-2 PM and 2-6 PM. So look for the sign up sheets at the club meeting on April 12th.

That's all for now, but as always; remember our brave men and women who serve in our military. Say thank you the next time you see someone wearing their military uniform.

73'S,

Rich, N6NKJ

Welcome New Members

New Members

WAMO # 1729	Raymond Adding	KI6IEL
WAMO # 1730	Maryetta Castro	
WAMO # 1731	Omer Castro Jr.	
WAMO # 1732	William Kukuk	KG6STY

Visitors

Ken Decker WA6OSB

Thank you to all members who have renewed. Please check the mailing label on your Counterpoise. If your membership has expired, please take a moment to complete and return the Renewal Application located within this Counterpoise.

73 Ann, KC6TBG



Maryetta Castro & Omer Castro Jr.



Raymond Adding, KI6IEL

Where are all the Elmers hiding?

By: Ken KI6HRH

As the "newest kid on the block", WAMO#1728, I sat at my first ARCEC meeting in awe of the sea of knowledgeable ham radio experts in attendance. The language spoken was foreign to me, but obviously technical and willingly shared among the devotees with total rapture. This is what I envisioned when I first began to study for the Technician exam recently past (and passed).

In every study manual I read, the technical and FCC requirements of ham operation were laid out in detail, but not one word about equipment operation or the realities of getting on the air. For this not-so-simple task, each author recommended the need for an Elmer and joining a local ARC. Heeding this advice I eagerly joined the ARCEC which was close to my home and downloaded from the club's internet site a years worth of Counterpoise newsletters to better understand its function. Alas, the words were vaguely familiar but the multitude of abbreviations was overwhelming. My dream of the past 60 years was rapidly fading with my appreciation of the fact that most of these members have become functioning ham operators only after years of trial, error, and osmosis.

Now to the issue of where are all you Elmers hiding. After retiring from the State of California (Cal/OSHA), I received the wifely mandate... "for better or for worse, but not for lunch every day!" ...so go out and get a hobby. Ham radio was a dream I've had since I was 10 years old but was stymied by the Code requirement. When I heard it was being dropped, I collected every study guide for the Technician exam I could find. When I passed the test, I immediately rushed out to get the necessary equipment for getting "on the air". The local Ham Outlet eagerly provided me with a handheld (XV-7R) and a base/mobile station (FT-897) which are beautiful instruments but have more button options than my 70 year old brain can absorb. The operator's manual is seemingly in English, but was obviously translated directly from Japanese poetry. In a fit of frustration I bought an inexpensive Bearcat scanner, which I've finally mastered, just to be able to hear someone on the air. I NEED AN ELMER!

If, as I've heard so often from many of you, we need to revitalize the Ham hobby by bringing new operators into the group, there needs to be a similar revitalization of the Elmer concept of helping the new kids come up to speed. This is not a complaint, but merely a cry for help. Elmer, I know you're out there somewhere! And if I ever conquer the operation of my shiny new transceivers, I'll try to become an Elmer to the next new kid on the block! 73 (what ever that means???) KI6HRH

Odds & Ends

Public Relations Continued

I watched ARES setup the MOC with the Ham gear and Winlink was the first station to go online. It worked from the get go. This little program is a great way to move data around. This is something that each one of us could use in our to go kit. I left the room as other stations were being setup, so I can't report on them.

Pat WA6MHZ and I went to the one of the PODS and saw the setup there. In the time of need Amateur Radio is the answer. It's quick to setup a station and get on the air. As we were leaving, the KUSI van pulled up, and I asked them to look for the hams. Sorry, we did not get on TV.

We know that we are only back up communications to their radios. Just like the 2003 Fire Storm, we were there in place and helped fill the holes in the communications. As Amateur Radio Operators, we are ready and willing to help in the time of need, but unfortunately that is not always a front page story. As Public Relations, I will continue to try and to get the word out on what we do and why.

Paul Rios KC6QLS

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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2006? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



Amateur Radio A National Resource